

1. **In the Claims.** The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A handle for a hand tool, comprising:

a handle defining a forward end and a rearward end and opposed side edges and defining a longitudinal axis extending between the forward and rearward ends, the handle having an outer surface including a two direction ridge pattern formed on the outer surface, the two directional ridge pattern comprising a plurality of first ridges facing the rearward end and a plurality of second ridges facing the forward end, all of the ridges having a length extending in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis such that no ridge overlaps any adjacent ridge along a line transverse to the longitudinal axis, and wherein said two direction ridge pattern includes no ridges extending generally along the longitudinal axis, and wherein the length of rearward-facing ridges at the forward end of the handle is longer than the length of the rearward-facing ridges adjacent a center portion of said handle, and the length of forward-facing ridges at the rearward end of the handle is longer than the length of the forward-facing ridges adjacent a center portion of said handle, and wherein all of the ridges except those ridges immediately adjacent said forward and rearward ends extend across the outer surface and terminate inwardly of the opposed side edges.

2. (Original) The handle according to claim 1 wherein the first ridges are located toward the forward end of the handle and the second ridges are located toward the rearward end of the handle.

3. (Original) The handle according to claim 1 wherein the handle defines a handle plane, and the first ridges further comprise a plurality of ridges formed into the outer surface, each of the ridges defined at the intersection of a first sloping surface and a second face surface, wherein the second face surface defines a plane that is generally transverse to the handle plane.

4. (Original) The handle according to claim 3 wherein the second ridges further comprise a plurality of ridges formed into the outer surface, each of the ridges defined at the intersection of a first sloping surface and a second face surface,

wherein the second face surface defines a plane that is generally transverse to the handle plane.

5. (Original) The handle according to claim 3 including a valley between each ridge, and wherein the first sloping surface extends from the valley to the ridge in the direction from the forward end toward the rearward end.

6. (Original) The handle according to claim 4 including a valley between each ridge, and wherein the first sloping surface extends from the valley to the ridge in the direction from the rearward end toward the forward end.

7. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 1 including a neutral zone at said center portion of said handle between the forward-facing ridges and the rearward-facing ridges, the neutral zone comprising a portion of the outer surface having no ridges.

8. (Original) The handle according to claim 1 wherein the ridges are arcuate.

9. (Original) The handle according to claim 1 wherein the handle comprises first and second opposed side walls, each side wall defining an outer surface including a two direction ridge pattern formed on the outer surface, the two directional ridge pattern on each side wall comprising a plurality of first ridges facing the rearward end and a plurality of second ridges facing the forward end, all of the ridges extending in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis.

10. (Previously Presented) A slip-resistant grasp for a tool handle having a handle configured for grasping in a user's hand, comprising:

the tool handle having a forward end and a rearward end and opposed side edges and a longitudinal axis and an outer surface that is held in the user's hand, the outer surface including a first series of ridges on the forward end of the handle facing the rearward end, and a second series ridges on the rearward end of the handle facing the forward end, each of the ridges extending in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis without overlapping any adjacent ridge, and wherein said outer surface has no ridge transecting any other ridge, and wherein all of the ridges except those ridges immediately adjacent said forward and rearward ends extend across the outer surface and terminate inwardly of the opposed side edges.

11. (Original) The slip-resistant grasp according to claim 10 wherein the handle comprises first and second side walls, each side wall defining an outer surface including a series of ridges on the forward end of the handle facing the rearward end, and a series ridges on the rearward end of the handle facing the forward end.

12. (Original) The slip-resistant grasp according to claim 11 including a section between the first series of ridges and the second series of ridges on at least one of the side walls comprising no ridges.

13. (Original) The slip-resistant grasp according to claim 12 including a retaining clip having a first end attached to the handle and a second end contacting the handle in the section between the first series of ridges and the second series of ridges on the at least one of the side walls comprising no ridges.

14. (Original) The slip-resistant grasp according to claim 13 wherein each ridge is further defined by the intersection of a first sloping surface and a second face surface, wherein the angle between the sloping surface and the face surface is less than 90°.

15. (Original) The slip-resistant grasp according to claim 14 wherein the handle defines a handle plane and the face surface defines a plane that is substantially transverse to the handle plane.

16. (Currently Amended) In a hand tool having an elongate handle having two opposed side walls, a forward end and a rearward end and opposed side edges, and an implement attached to the forward end, the improvement comprising:

a slip-resistant grasp formed in at least one of the two opposed side walls, the slip-resistant grasp defined by a first plurality of saw tooth ridges facing the rearward end and a second plurality of saw tooth ridges facing the forward end, wherein no ridge is transected by another ridge, and wherein the length of the ridges in the first plurality of saw tooth ridges decreases gradually in the direction from the forward end to the rearward end, and the length of the ridges in the second plurality of saw tooth ridges increases gradually in the direction from the forward end to the rearward end, and wherein all of the ridges except those ridges immediately adjacent said forward and rearward ends extend across the outer surface and terminate inwardly of the opposed side edges.

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17. (Original) The hand tool according to claim 16 wherein the hand tool is a knife having a knife blade that defines a first plane, and wherein each saw tooth ridge comprises a first face section that defines a second plane that is orthogonal to the first plane.

18. (Original) The hand tool according to claim 17 including a slip-resistant grasp formed in both of the two opposed side walls.

19. (Original) The hand tool according to claim 18 including a neutral zone in at least one of the two opposed side walls between the first plurality of saw tooth ridges and the second plurality of saw tooth ridges, the neutral zone defining a smooth surface relative to the ridges.

20. (Original) The hand tool according to claim 19 including a retaining clip having a first end attached to the handle and a second end contacting the handle in the neutral zone.